

25X1

96

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

30 April 1968

25X1

Yugoslavs Will Not Attend Moscow Conference

The Yugoslav Communist party announced 24 hours after the setting of the date that it will not attend the November world communist meeting in Moscow, according to a front page editorial in the 29 April Belgrade Borba. The announcement was published on the same day that Tito began his talks with Brezhnev in Moscow. The editorial justified the Yugoslav decision by citing the exclusion of non-communist "progressive" parties from the November meeting and the failure of the Budapest preparatory meetings to renounce the criticism of Yugoslav revisionism contained in the final documents of the 1957 and 1960 world communist conferences.

25X1

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East German Officials Attend West German Fair

Two high level East German functionaries currently are attending the Hannover Fair in West Germany despite an East German ban forbidding travel by West German officials to West Berlin.

Horst Soelle, GDR minister for foreign economic relations, and his deputy and Interzonal Trade (IZT) negotiator Heinz Behrendt arrived in Hannover yesterday for a two day visit. The Bonn Foreign Office, evincing considerable embarrassment, said the two men had been invited by the fair management which had acted independently.

The presence of the East German officials is certain to raise a storm of controversy in the press and complicate any effective FRG response to the GDR ban on travel by Bonn functionaries.

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Drought Threatens Bulgarian Harvest

An unusually dry spring is threatening the normal development of autumn crops in Bulgaria.

A 20 April conference sponsored by the Council of Ministers called for increased irrigation and criticized local leaders who are not taking efficient measures to improve the irrigation work. On 11 April, however, the

25X1

25X1

25X1

-2-

director of Bulgaria's "irrigation systems" reported in the press that this spring's drought together with insufficient rain and snow last autumn and winter have left the country's dams in short supply and unable to fulfill the irrigation plan. Bulgaria's great drought period usually occurs in June and July and inadequate water for irrigation will have serious effects on the harvest.

Bulgaria has enjoyed two bumper crops in 1966-67 which have reduced the pressure to implement new economic reforms and systems of management. A poor harvest would probably stimulate a rethink among Sofia's top leadership.

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Yugoslav Cotton Delegation Upset with US Reception

A Yugoslav delegation has registered its disappointment over its recent trip to the US to buy American cotton under CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) credit arrangements.

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High prices, the lack of seller quotations, and the unbusinesslike attitude of US suppliers left the delegation with an unpleasant and unfavorable impression,

The delegation did buy \$5.4 million in cotton to satisfy Yugoslavia's usual marketing requirements under the last PL-480 agreement, but because of difficulties encountered purchasing US cotton, the delegation

25X1
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went immediately to Moscow to discuss further purchases of Soviet cotton.

This report is a sudden departure from the usual laudatory comments made by Yugoslav trade delegations concerning their reception in the US. While the full details concerning the cotton-buying delegation's trip are not known, their reaction may in part represent the growing sophistication and shrewdness of Yugoslav importers who are increasingly seeking out the best conditions and prices available.

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French Increase Contacts with Croats and Slovenes

The French have opened a commercial office in Zagreb and a reading room in Ljubljana, as part of an effort to increase political, economic and cultural exchanges with Croatia and Slovenia.

Belgrade probably hopes that these moves presage efforts to reduce Yugoslavia's large trade imbalance with France. Paris apparently feels further avenues for cultural and economic improvement between the two countries lie open in Yugoslavia's two industrialized Western republics.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR MAY 1968

25X1

Undated	Czechoslovakia	Party Plenum []	
2	Czechoslovakia	National Assembly Convenes to consider government program. []	25X1
5	East Germany	150th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx. []	25X1 25X1
6-10	East Germany	FDBG Congress East Berlin. []	
6-26	Bulgaria	Bulgarian Trade Mission Visits US. []	25X1
7	Rumania	RCP celebrates 47th anniversary.	
8	Rumania	Parliament convenes.	25X1
12-19	Yugoslavia	French Military Delegation to Yugoslavia. []	
13	Rumania	Deputy Premier Birladeanu slated to start US visit. []	25X1
14-19	Rumania	French President DeGaulle on official visit to Rumania. []	25X1
17-27	Hungary	US to participate in Budapest Trade Fair	
25	Yugoslavia	Tito's 76th birthday	